

Claims

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1. A container for holding a sharp instrument having a handle portion and a cutting portion, the sharp instrument being held within the container to be easily accessible during surgical procedures, said container including:-

an instrument recess adapted to receive at least the cutting portion of said sharp instrument, and

10 inclined guide means for guiding a sharp instrument placed in said container to said instrument recess;

the arrangement being such that a sharp instrument received within said instrument recess is positioned therein to be easily accessible for re-use during surgical procedures and such that the cutting portion thereof is not directed towards the opening of the instrument recess whereby a user's fingers are substantially prevented from contacting said cutting portion.

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2. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said container includes inclined walls converging to said opening, the inclined walls constituting said guide means.

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3. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instrument recess is elongated and closed at each end, is adapted to receive a scalpel and along two opposite lengths thereof has a cross sectional configuration of width slightly greater than the major cross-sectional dimension of a scalpel and depth slightly greater than the minor cross-sectional dimension of a scalpel, the length of said instrument recess being such that the scalpel blade is located within one of said opposite lengths irrespective of the position of the scalpel in the instrument recess.

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4. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

instrument recess has sidewalls and a base, the junctions thereof being radiussed such that a scalpel is disposed to rest in the recess with its major cross-sectional dimension parallel to said base.

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5. A container as claimed in claim 3, and including access means for providing a user with access to the scalpel handle for removing the scalpel from said instrument recess.

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6. A container as claimed in claim 5, wherein said access means includes a finger access recess, the cross sectional configuration of said finger access recess being such as to allow a user's fingers to contact the  
15 scalpel handle for removing the scalpel from said instrument recess, the position of said finger access recess being such that the scalpel blade is not located within said finger access recess irrespective of the position of the scalpel in the instrument recess.

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7. A container as claimed in claim 1, and including barrier means for preventing a user's fingers entering said instrument recess.

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8. A container as claimed in claim 7, wherein said barrier means constitutes the opening to said instrument recess, the width of said opening being such as to allow a scalpel to enter the recess but to prevent a user's fingers entering the recess.

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9. A container as claimed in claim 1, and including handle means whereby a user can hold the container.

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10. A container as claimed in claim 1, and including handle mounting means for mounting a detachable handle whereby a user can hold the container.

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11. A container as claimed in claim 1, and including a

plurality of said instrument recesses each adapted to receive a scalpel therein.

12. A container as claimed in claim 1 and adapted to contain a suture needle holder and a suturing needle held thereby, wherein said instrument recess is substantially semi-cylindrical and adapted to receive said suturing needle.

10 13. A container as claimed in claim 1 and adapted to contain a straight needle and a suture threaded thereto, wherein said instrument recess is elongated and closed at one end and adapted to receive said straight needle, and including a suture recess for receiving said suture.

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14. A container as claimed in claim 12, and including a container as claimed in claim 13.

15. A container for holding a scalpel during surgical procedures, said container including:-

an elongated scalpel recess closed at each end and adapted to receive a scalpel, and having two opposite lengths of cross-sectional configuration with width slightly greater than that of the major cross-sectional dimension of the scalpel and depth slightly greater than that of the minor cross-sectional dimension of the scalpel, the length of said scalpel recess being such that the scalpel blade is located within one of said opposite lengths irrespective of the position of the scalpel in the scalpel recess, and

guide means for guiding a scalpel placed in said container to said scalpel recess;

the arrangement being such that a scalpel received within said scalpel recess is positioned therein such that the scalpel blade is not directed towards the opening of the scalpel recess whereby a user's fingers are substantially prevented from contacting the scalpel blade.

16. A container for holding a suture needle holder and a suturing needle held thereby during surgical procedures, the container including:-

5 a substantially semi-cylindrical needle recess, adapted to receive the suturing needle therein, and guide means for guiding a suturing needle held by a suture needle holder to said needle recess;

10 the arrangement being such that a suturing needle received within said needle recess is positioned therein such that the point of the suturing needle is positioned within the needle recess such that a user's fingers are substantially prevented from contacting the point.

17. A container for holding a straight needle and a suture threaded thereto, the straight needle and threaded suture being held within the container to be easily accessible during surgical procedures, the container including:-

20 an elongated needle recess closed at one end and adapted to receive a straight needle therein;

a suture recess for receiving said suture, and inclined guide means for guiding a straight needle placed in said container to said needle recess;

25 the arrangement being such that a straight needle received within said needle recess is positioned therein to be easily accessible for re-use during surgical procedures and such that the point of the straight needle is positioned within the needle recess such that a user's fingers are substantially prevented from contacting the point.

18. A method of transferring a sharp instrument having a handle portion and a cutting portion between operators during a surgical procedure, wherein:-

35 the transferor of the sharp instrument places the sharp instrument in an instrument recess in an instrument holding container, the sharp instrument being held within the container to be easily accessible during surgical

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the receiver or transferee of the sharp instrument  
removes the sharp instrument from said instrument recess;

5 said instrument recess being adapted to receive at  
least the cutting portion of said sharp instrument, and  
said instrument holding container having inclined guide  
means for guiding a sharp instrument placed therein to  
said instrument recess, the arrangement being such that a  
sharp instrument received within said instrument recess  
10 is positioned therein to be easily accessible for re-use  
during surgical procedures and such that the cutting  
portion thereof is not directed towards the opening of  
the instrument recess whereby an operator's fingers are  
substantially prevented from contacting said cutting  
15 portion.

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